

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01     ATHENS 12404 191803Z

53

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

SAJ-01 ACDA-07 DLOS-06 SAL-01 /087 W

----- 048238

P R 191622Z NOV 76

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7971

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

CINCUSAFE

USODCOSOUTH

DIA WASHDC

CINCUSNAVEUR

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USDOCOLANDSOUTHEAST

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCUEUR

USAREUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 12404

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PLOS, PBOR, GR, TU

SUBJECT: BILATERAL GREEK-TURKISH TALKS ON THE AEGEAN DISPUTE

REFS: (A) ATHENS 11870 (NOTAL)

(B) ANKARA 8696 (NOTAL)

(C) BERN 5260 (NOTAL)

1. ON NOVEMBER 18 THE MFA DIRECTOR FOR TURKISH AND CYPRIOT  
AFFAIRS, AMBASSADOR NOMIKOS, GAVE THE POLITICAL COUNSELOR  
A STATUS REPORT ON THE BILATERAL TALKS WITH THE TURKS IN  
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PAGE 02     ATHENS 12404 191803Z

CONNECTION WITH THE AEGEAN DISPUTE--THE RECENTLY CONCLUDED

TALKS ON THE CONTINENTAL SHELF IN BERN AND THE AIR SPACE  
TALKS WHICH ARE CONTINUING IN PARIS.

2. CONTINENTAL SHELF TALKS. NOMIKOS SAID THAT THE  
TALKS IN BERN ON THE CONTINENTAL SHELF ISSUE HAD BEEN  
CONCLUDED AND AGREEMENT REACHED ON THE PROCEDURES THAT  
WOULD BE FOLLOWED IN NEGOTIATING THE SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES.  
HE AGAIN STRESSED (REF A) THAT ONLY PROCEDURES HAD BEEN  
DISCUSSED AND THERE WERE NO EXCHANGES ON THE SUBSTANCE  
OF THE ISSUES. HE SAID THE ATMOSPHERE DURING THE TALKS  
HAD BEEN GOOD AND THE GREEK SIDE WAS QUITE SATISFIED WITH  
THEIR OUTCOME (SOMETHING WHICH FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS  
ALSO CONFIRMED TO THE AMBASSADOR EARLIER YESTERDAY).

3. THE AGREEMENT REACHED BY AMBASSADORS TZOUNIS AND BILGE  
HAD BEEN INCORPORATED IN A "PROCES VERBAL ON THE PROCEDURES  
TO BE FOLLOWED IN DELIMITING THE CONTINENTAL SHELF  
BETWEEN GREECE AND TURKEY." THE PROCES VERBAL CONTAINS TEN  
POINTS WHICH NOMIKOS READ OUT FROM THE FRENCH TEXT.

A SUMMARY OF THESE POINTS IS AS FOLLOWS:

(A) THE TALKS WILL BE FRANK, IN DEPTH AND IN GOOD  
FAITH;

(B) BOTH SIDES WILL KEEP THEM CONFIDENTIAL;

(C) BOTH SIDES RESERVE THEIR RESPECTIVE POSITIONS  
(THIS, NOMIKOS EXPLAINED, MEANS THE TWO SIDES RESERVE THEIR  
RESPECTIVE LEGAL POSITIONS);

(D) THEY BOTH AGREED NOT TO USE ANY OF THE ARGUMENTS,  
PROPOSALS OR POINTS WHICH COME UP IN THESE NEGOTIATIONS IN  
ANY OTHER OUTSIDE FORUM;

(E) THERE WILL BE NO LEAKS OR OTHER STATEMENTS TO  
THE PRESS EXCEPT AS BOTH SIDES MAY AGREE;

(F) BOTH SIDES WILL ABSTAIN FROM ANY ACTIONS OR  
INITIATIVES IN THE AEGEAN WHICH COULD DISTURB THE TALKS;

(G) IN THEIR BILATERAL RELATIONS, EACH SIDE WILL  
REFRAIN FROM ANY ACTS OR INITIATIVES WHICH MIGHT DISCREDIT  
THE OTHER SIDE (NOMIKOS EXPLAINED, HOWEVER, THAT IT WAS  
UNDERSTOOD THAT ACTIVITIES WITH RESPECT TO CYPRUS WOULD  
BE EXCLUDED FROM THE UNDERTAKING, AS WOULD THE ACTIVITIES OF THE  
"GREEK LOBBY" IN THE U.S. SINCE IT IS NOT CONTROLLED BY THE GOG--  
THIS LATTER POINT SUGGESTS A POTENTIALLY TROUBLESOME ISSUE IN  
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PAGE 03     ATHENS 12404 191803Z

VIEW OF THE INTERPRETATION GIVEN BY AMBASSADOR BILGE IN  
REF C);

(H) IT WAS AGREED TO STUDY THE PRACTICES OF OTHER  
COUNTRIES AND INTERNATIONAL RULES WITH RESPECT TO THE  
CONTINENTAL SHELF IN ORDER TO DRAW FROM THEM CERTAIN  
PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICAL CRITERIA WHICH COULD BE USED IN  
DELIMITING THE CONTINENTAL SHELF BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES;

(I) A "MIXED COMMITTEE" WILL BE FORMED, CONSISTING

OF NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES, TO CONDUCT THE DELIMITATION OF THE SHELF (NOMIKOS SAID HE THOUGHT THE RESPECTIVE SIDES OF THIS COMMITTEE WOULD BE HEADED AGAIN BY AMBASSADORS TZOUNIS AND BILGE); AND

(J) THAT THE PROCESS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS WILL FOLLOW A GRADUAL RHYTHM.

4. ACCORDING TO NOMIKOS THE TEXT OF THE PROCES VERBAL WOULD PROBABLY BE RELEASED IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS.

(BITSIOS TOLD THE AMBASSADOR A PROBLEM HAD ARISEN OVER THE ACCOMPANYING STATEMENT OR STATEMENTS TO THE PRESS. THE TURKS HAD DRAFTED A TEXT WHICH MADE THE PROCEDURAL AGREEMENT SOUND LIKE A "TURKISH VICTORY." THE TWO SIDES WERE STILL NEGOTIATING OVER THE MATTER.)

HE INDICATED THAT FOREIGN MINISTERS BITSIOS AND CAGLAYANGIL WILL DECIDE, WHEN THEY MEET, WHEN AND WHERE THE SUBSTANTIVE NEGOTIATIONS BY THE "MIXED COMMITTEE" WILL TAKE PLACE. HE SAID HE THOUGHT THE MINISTERS WOULD PROBABLY MEET DURING THE NATO MINISTERIAL IN BRUSSELS DECEMBER 9-10 (FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS CONFIRMED TO THE AMBASSADOR THAT IS WHEN HE NEXT EXPECTS TO SEE CAGLAYANGIL).

5. AIR SPACE TALKS. NOMIKOS SAID THAT THE "SECURITY ZONE" CONTINUED TO BE THE PRINCIPAL STUMBLING BLOCK IN THE AIR SPACE TALKS IN PARIS. HE EXPLAINED, SOMEWHAT MORE CLEARLY AND IN MORE DETAIL THAN HE HAD THE LAST TIME (REF A), THAT THE PROBLEM HAS TO DO WITH THE POINT AT WHICH MILITARY FLIGHTS OF MORE THAN FOUR AIRCRAFT OPERATING IN ONE FIR MUST NOTIFY THE OTHER SIDE OF THEIR ACTIVITIES. AT FIRST THE TURKISH SIDE HAD WANTED THIS "SECURITY ZONE" ON THE GREEK SIDE OF THE FIR LINE ONLY. HOWEVER, THE GREEKS HAD INSISTED THAT

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04     ATHENS 12404 191803Z

THE ZONE SHOULD OVERLAP THE LINE ON BOTH SIDES. SEVERAL PROPOSALS AND COUNTER-PROPOSALS WERE MADE DURING THE PARIS TALKS, AND THE GREEKS FINALLY AGREED THAT THE DEPTH OF THE SECURITY ZONE ON THE GREEK SIDE OF THE FIR LINE COULD BE GREATER THAN IT WOULD BE ON THE TURKISH SIDE. ACCORDING TO NOMIKOS, THE GREEKS ARE NOW AWAITING THE FINAL ANSWER TO THIS COMPROMISE FROM ANKARA. IF AGREEMENT IS REACHED ON THIS POINT WITH RESPECT TO MILITARY FLIGHTS, NOMIKOS SAID HE THOUGHT AGREEMENT ON ARRANGEMENTS WITH RESPECT TO CIVIL AIR FLIGHTS COULD BE REACHED FAIRLY EASILY AND WITHOUT DIFFICULTY.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DISPUTE SETTLEMENT, CONTINENTAL SHELF, PROGRESS REPORTS, AEGEAN, NEGOTIATIONS, EXPLORATORY DRILLING, WATER BOUNDARIES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 19 NOV 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ElyME  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976ATHENS12404  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760434-0213  
**From:** ATHENS  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19761129/aaaaayor.tel  
**Line Count:** 166  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 4  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 ATHENS 11870, 76 ANKARA 8696, 76 BERN 5260  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ElyME  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 22 APR 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <22 APR 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <28 JUL 2004 by ElyME>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** BILATERAL GREEK-TURKISH TALKS ON THE AEGEAN DISPUTE  
**TAGS:** PFOR, PLOS, PBOR, GR, TU  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006